

WESTWOOD MINISTRIES FALL 2025



SERVICE @ THE SERVICE

Do you love attending church on Sunday Mornings? Do you ever leave on Sunday wishing you had been more involved somehow? This is the section for you!



SANCTUARY CHOIRS

As WUMC's principal choir, the Chancel Choir leads worship weekly October through June. The widely varied repertoire is selected from music of our time, from the Church's rich musical tradition and from other cultures. Everyone is welcome regardless of previous experience. Regular rehearsals are Thursdays (7:30-9:30pm) in the Choir Room.

During winter break and over the summer, there are opportunities for folks to join the choir more informally. These seasonal choirs meet on Sunday mornings (no Thursday rehearsal) at 9am to learn a simple anthem that they sing in the 9:30 gathering that day. For these services, the choir doesn't wear robes and sits in the pews.

To express interest in any of the choirs, contact Dr. Andrew Schultz.

COMMUNION

United Methodists believe Holy Communion is a sacred mystery and a means of grace. It is a gift from God that provides an opportunity to come together and receive God's grace. It is a time of connection in the church community. We practice an "open table" where all are welcome regardless of age or church membership.

In the Sanctuary service, Communion servers process in the Elements, bread and grape juice. They usually serve the Cup as one of the Ministers serves the bread. In the Loft, communion is served by members of the congregation once the elements are blessed.

To be a communion server or reader, reach out to Nancy Hill (Sanctuary), or Westley (Loft)

ALTAR FLOWERS

Following the 9:30 worship services, when the Altar Flowers are not needed for an afternoon event, the ministry volunteers create two arrangements. One for the donor and one for a person "at home" identified by Pastor Molly or Pastor Christopher or listed on the "On the Going Prayer Requests List". Paper, ribbon and vases are in the Sacristy Room. The volunteer delivers the arrangements on Sunday. Additional volunteers are welcome to join the team!.

Contact Jo

SANCTUARY USHERING

Ushering has 3 main tasks focused on making worship go smoothly.

Greeting people on arrival -- distribute worship guides (or other material), and answer "where are the restrooms?" (and related questions). And generally being aware of people entering/leaving.

The Offering -- coordinating with your partner to pass the plates around the sanctuary

Directing people for communion and assisting with communion in the pews

How to get involved -- 1. Make your desire known -- to an usher, or the "formal" card in the pew. 2. Attend regularly.

GRAPPLE

Grapple is our middle and high school youth group! We gather on Sunday mornings to explore our faith and how it applies to our lives. We focus on exploration-based spiritual formation and offer programming that challenges youth to discover what they believe, who they are, and how their faith can shape their lives. We also do lots of fun and silly games and activities all throughout the weeks.

If you or a youth you know is interested in joining Grapple, or to volunteer, contact Everest @westwoodumc.org

WESTWOOD KIDS

At Westwood Kids, children discover that faith is something to live and celebrate with their whole selves. Each week, they step into Bible stories through engaging storytelling, song, art, movement and prayer. Our children's ministry, Westwood Kids, brings worship to life in ways that are active, creative, and joyful. In the play yard and classroom, kids build friendships, practice kindness and service, and learn to pause and listen for God's presence.

Within Westwood Kids, we use approaches like Godly Play and Faith in Motion, where children explore the wonder and mystery of God's story through imagination and reflection. Together, these experiences help kids grow in confidence as they discover they are loved by God and belong in God's family.

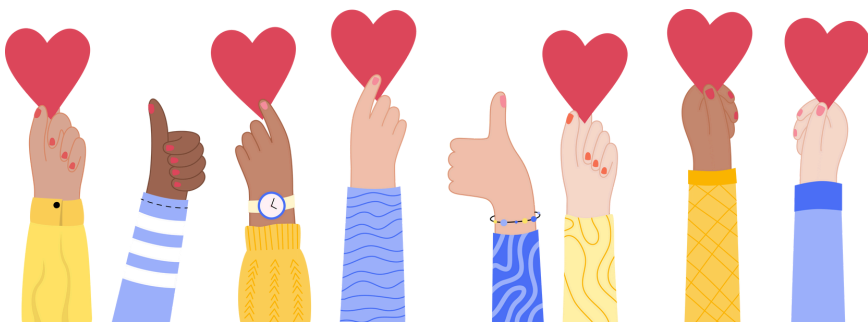
Westwood Kids. Rooted in God's love, growing in community, alive with creative faith.

To learn more or get involved: contact Deanna @westwoodumc.org

Westwood Kids & Grapple Volunteer Training

Do you love working with young people? Do you want to help out in our youth and children's programming on Sunday mornings?

Join us on **Sunday, October 5** at noon in Helms Hall for program overviews and volunteer training.



CHURCH GOVERNANCE

Every year, our Lay Leadership Committee has the responsibility of identifying and recruiting a diverse and inclusive slate of nominees for 3-year terms on our administrative committees. They invite you to let us know if you are interested in serving, or if there is someone you would want to nominate to serve starting in 2026.

Our five administrative committees include:



Committee on Lay Leadership: Identifies, recruits, and trains lay leadership for the various nominated positions in the church.

Church Council: The Church Council serves as the overall program and planning body for the local church.

Trustees: The Trustees are the Corporate Officers for the church, with responsibility especially for our buildings and other assets.

Stewardship and Finance: The Stewardship and Finance Committee creates and monitors the church budget and plans the Annual Stewardship Campaign.

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC): The SPRC is responsible for all personnel matters and is a liaison to the Bishop's office.

WISDOM AT WESTWOOD

Meeting most Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Wesley Room, Wisdom at Westwood seeks to engage and inspire adults with presentations and discussions on a variety of Biblical studies, community interests, and personal faith journeys.

SMALL GROUPS + RECREATION

You want some buddies? Looking to make some friends or pick up a new hobby? This is the section for you!

These are groups of intentional community and friendship who can't wait to welcome you in



BOOK GROUPS

We host both fiction and nonfiction book groups throughout the year! If you want to join or suggest a book for us to read together, scan here:



WESTWOOD SMALL GROUP

semi-regular gatherings for members of our community who live in or near the Westwood area!

contact Mariandrea to join or learn more!

SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVIE CLUB

Join us on select Tuesdays for a film screening, popcorn, snacks, and discussion at 6:00 in the Helms Hall. (Movies start at 6:30)



October 14 (Ft. Panel + Benefit Art Show):
No Other Land



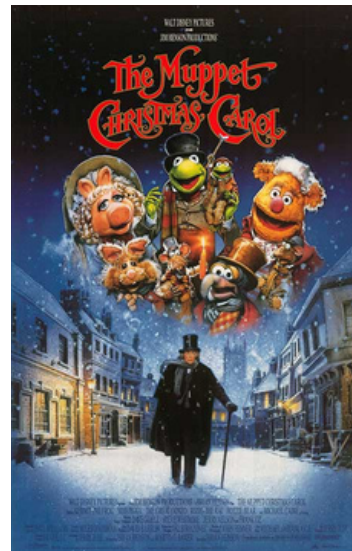
November 4:
Get Out



November 21:
Lakota Nation vs.
The United States



December 9: Buy Now! The Shopping Conspiracy



December 23 (Family Showing):
Muppet's Christmas Carol

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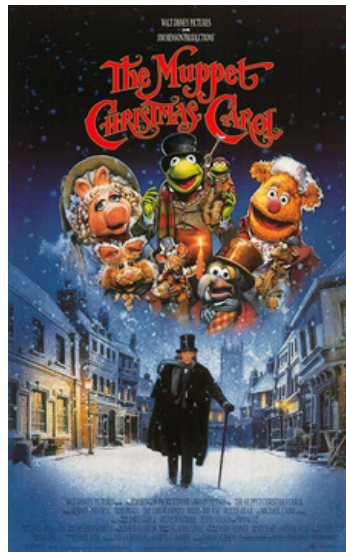
Tuesday, November 4
in Helms Hall: Get Out



Friday, November 21 In the Loft:
Lakota Nation vs. The United
States



December 9: Buy Now! The
Shopping Conspiracy



December
23 (Family
Showing):
Muppet's
Christmas
Carol

CULVER CITY SMALL GROUP

The Culver City group typically meets at the home of Bobbi and Owen Shiflett twice a month on Sundays except during the summer months. We typically enjoy food and drink for the first hour (potluck style) and the second we ease into conversation in the backyard, with kids and pets intersecting the circle constantly - thankfully no one seems to mind.

Interested in joining? Contact the Schifletts

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Young Adults Group is for anyone who self identifies as a young adult (we don't have a strict age range, we have members between 22 and 32). We gather together monthly to have discussion about spiritual topics, eat delicious food, and have fun with one another! If you don't quite know which group to join but know you want community with twenty-thirty something's, young adults group is for you!

We meet the first Wednesday of every month from 730-930 pm. Location varies but is always on the west side, either at a restaurant a house or a local park. We would love to have you!

We hope to see you soon!

QUEER GROUP

Are you a member of the LGBT community? Considering becoming one? Stop by our queer group to make some friends and learn more. We want to meet you and compliment your outfit!

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month and host some other fun events on the side.

Email [everest @westwoodumc.org](mailto:everest@westwoodumc.org) to find out more

FOUND FAMILY

An intergenerational group for parent and grandparent-age people at Westwood to be paired with members of our Queer Group in order to form friendships and familial bonds!

We host events throughout the year focused on fostering intergenerational connection.

Email [everest @westwoodumc.org](mailto:everest@westwoodumc.org) to find out more

WOMEN'S GROUP

Join our multigenerational Women's Group! We invite women to build community and spiritual growth through our potlucks. These events may include a short program, announcements, and will always be a supportive space for UMC women to connect. See you there!

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Scheduled 2026 Dates:

February 7, May 2, August 1, November 7

Contact Ellen Evans Agee to learn more

WESTWOOD WOMEN'S RETREAT

October 24th-26th, 2025 - Serra Retreat (Malibu)

Join us for an intentional weekend of nature, spirituality, and community!



register here



**make your payment by
indicating "women's retreat."**

SOFTBALL

WUMC is part of a Westside based, interfaith softball league that plays on Monday nights in the spring/summer seasons. The “fighting Methodist loftBallers” play on Monday nights against other churches and synagogues.

To join the fan club or get involved with the team they can contact Westley Garcia, Sabrina Simmons, Jeremy Lange or Alex Smith.

MEN'S GROUP

Men's Group is a space for all those who identify as men. We discuss a variety of topics and issues and challenge the age-old definitions of masculinity and what it means to be a man in this age.

We meet the third Wednesday of every month, at Ty London's house at 8PM.

We also have an email list that we can put people on so that they will get notifications of all of the events we participate in.

Contacts: Alex Smith, Ty London, Tom Burkhard

JUSTICE + COMMUNITY

Do you have a heart for justice and service? This section highlights some of our different outreach and social justice programs and partnerships



580 CAFE

580 Cafe (Wesley Foundation Serving UCLA) is a campus community dedicated to building justice through dialogue, creative expression, belief and activism. We believe community is an essential need and we provide resources to students to nourish their mind body and spirit, as we cherish their sacred worth and empower their flourishing to build beloved community locally, nationally, and globally.

To help out and get involved, contact Jeanne Roe Smith

CLUE/EPIC

**Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice
Echo Park Immigration Center**

Westwood has ongoing partnerships with CLUE & EPIC, working in support of initiatives that support workers, immigrants, and our larger LA community. To find out about more CLUE & EPIC opportunities, contact Everest or attend our Social Justice Task Force meeting on the first Sunday of the month.

LA VOICE ORGANIZING TEAM

Want to learn about how to build long term power in your community? come to the la voice organizing table to learn about community organizing and how this strategy can be used to change la county!

For more information/opportunities, attend our monthly Social Justice Task Force meetings or contact Nona @lavoice.org

PATH (PEOPLE ASSISTING THE HOMELESS)

Join us on the 4th Saturday of the month to cook lunch for our friends at PATH's Cotner Avenue location.

If you'd like to learn more or volunteer, email Everest everest@westwoodumc.org

SEEN & HEARD

Westwood members Regan and Matthew Williams lead Seen&Heard, a non-profit organization serving youth in foster care as they exit the system and enter adulthood. Their fundraiser is coming up on September 25, and they'd love to see as many folks as possible at this "happy hour" style event. You can register/find out more here:



to learn more about Seen & Heard and find out how you can get involved, email Regan or visit www.seenandheard.org

PRAYERFUL STITCHES

Prayerful Stitches is an outreach ministry of the church! The ministry provides: prayer shawls for members and friends of our community who are struggling, a tangible way for the rest of the community to lay on hands and pray for the recipients, and a community gathering opportunity for the creators as they gather in prayer and fun whilst creating shawls

Come for some great fellowship and crafting! We can teach you to knit or crochet, we have yarn and needles and patterns! Our next event is September 20 from 10:30-12 in the loft.

To RSVP or for more information, reach out to Ellen Evans Agee or Nancy Hill

SCATTERED FOR SERVICE

Every year during Scattered for Service, we have the chance to transform lives by giving our friends at FairTradeWinds.net to provide fair-trade products. In addition to fair-trade items, we also offer alternative gift options by supporting life-affirming organizations in our Scattered for Service brochure and online catalog at www.ScatteredforService.com.

This year, the in-person market will be held on November 9th and 16th. Throughout Advent, we'll also have alternative gifts and cards available. We believe that each of us in this wonderful community can make a difference in the success of Scattered for Service. We're looking for volunteers to help with setup, take-down, and during the sale. If you're skilled in calligraphy or fancy writing, we'd love you to contribute to creating the beautiful alternative gifts. It's a fun and rewarding experience, and you'll get a sneak peek at the goodies!

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Ellen Evans Agee or Nancy Hill

SIMPLY FRIENDS

Would you like to explore friendship with foster teens who live near WUMC? Simply Friends organizes outreach to do fun things and share meals with these precious youth and we'd love to have you participate!

participation is very flexible - join our visits which are typically 3-4 times a month whenever you may and for however long you are able.

we strive to bring Gods love and fellowship to ease the loneliness of our most hurting and lonely youth who have no place to call home

If interested please contact Paul Freese

SOCIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

Want to learn more about monthly opportunities to get involved in our community, justice, and organizing work with all these organizations and more? Come to the Wesley Room after services on the first Sundays of the month to hear from ALL OUR JUSTICE GROUPS and find the perfect place for you to get involved. Hope to see you there.

Next meeting: October 5, 12:15 in the Wesley Room